THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 4th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

64046

Salary of compounders and nurses in private hospitals.

* 30 Q.—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have prescribed any minimum salary payable to compounders and nurses employed in the private hospitals and dispensaries?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that there is no security of employment or fixity of salary for the compounders, nurses and midwives employed in private dispensaries and hospitals and that therefore they are completely at the mercy of the employers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This is a question about minimum salary and not about security of employment."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" In view of the fact that most of the compounders, nurses and midwives are either Harijans or Christians converted from Harijans with no security of employment or fixity of salary, will the Government consider the desirability of applying the Madras Shops and Establishments Act to private dispensaries and hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The question may be addressed to my colleague who is in charge of the portfolio."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Do the Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the matter and fix minimum salaries for compounders, nurses and midwives employed in private dispensaries? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Government have recently fixed a minimum rate of wages for this class of employees under local bodies."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" The salary of teachers in aided schools is governed by Government rules and regulations. Cannot a similar procedure be adopted in respect of the salary of compounders, etc., in private dispensaries, hospitals and nursing homes? "

[4th July 1952

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The question may be addressed to the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Is the question of implementing the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, with regard to the salary of nurses and compounders, under the consideration of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is a general question which does not arise out of this question."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Since there is a difference in the salary given to the midwives employed in rural dispensaries and the midwives employed in local board dispensaries, will the Government consider the desirability of giving the same scale of pay to the midwives in rural dispensaries as is given to the midwives in local board dispensaries?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is difficult to have a uniform scale of pay for this class of employees under different agencies. The scale of pay depends upon the financial capacity of the employer."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Is it not a fact that, due to the low scale of pay of compounders, sufficient number of candidates are not forthcoming to undergo compounder's training?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We are getting sufficient number of people to undergo compounder's training."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Government accept the principle of equal pay for equal work at least in local boards and aided institutions which are under their aegis?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Local bodies have different scales of pay. Their finances do not permit them to pay their employees at Government rates."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Are the Government aware that many rural practitioners have no midwives attached to their dispensaries because of the very low pay given to the midwives?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The pay of maternity assistants was enhanced a short time ago. It will be considered further if circumstances necessitate such a consideration."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Are the Government aware that the position of compounders and nurses in Government hospitals is no better? Since there is a grievance prevailing among the compounders and nurses in Government hospitals, will the Government take steps to remedy the grievance?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" All classes of low-paid employees have grievances."